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Medicine and astrology in Arnau's Corpus

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Abstract

The role of astrology in Arnau de Vilanova's medical work is revisited with special attention to the problems of authorship posed by the astrological writings of Arnau's corpus and to their hypothetical chronology.

Abortion in the Castilian medical literature of the 16th century

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Abstract

This article analyzes the causes of abortion according to the medical and surgical literature that circulated in Castilian in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. These works not only explain the medical causes of the death of foetuses but also show how female health was discriminated against and how doctors were able to produce an incipient causal theory in accordance with the medical and social problems of their time.

Simón de Tovar (1528-1596): family networks, American nature and trade in curiosities in 16th century Seville

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Abstract

The central character of this work is Simón de Tovar, a citizen of late 16th century Seville, who was an outstanding collector of American plants. Beyond the traditional historiography of early modern Spanish botany, Tovar's activities have been set in the context of an expanding trade in marvels and curiosities.

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Abstract

Since the late 19th century, phrenology has been regarded at best as a pseudo-science popularised by quacks. During the 1970s, representatives of the new social history of science and medicine chose it as their favourite target for the in-depth construction of scientific orthodoxy. Since then, different approaches to phrenology have helped to change a 19th century view focused on the emergence of science as a profession and on the new technical nature of medicine. In this paper, I analyse the different contributions to the study of phrenology in Great Britain and France over the past three decades and point out some aspects that should receive more attention in future research.

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Abstract

This paper, based on case studies, aims to present some aspects of the animal magnetism that developed in the Germany of the first decades of the nineteenth century. These aspects constitute, or at least imply, important innovations within the framework of contemporary medical practice and consist of: the recognition of the importance of the words of patients and their own knowledge of their bodies; the emergence of the figure of woman as an independent and singular subject in which the aspects indicated above are emphasized; and, finally, the latent potential of this medical theory for reform within the framework of policy.

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Abstract

The *Unión Médica Hispano-Americana* was founded during the XIII International Congress of Medicine of Paris in 1900. Its main aim was to strengthen the cultural and scientific ties among Spanish speaking countries. The first assembly took place in Madrid in the Spring of 1903. The most interesting paper presented was undoubtedly that of Manuel Tolosa Latour. He suggested creating a *Diccionario Tecnológico Médico Hispano-Americano*. The society had no continuity and neither did the dictionary. The reasons for this failure must be seen in the absence of economic support by political authorities in Spain and America, the organizational weakness of the *Unión* and the poverty of its action program, which was imbued with a triumphalist rhetoric, empty of content and highly paternalistic in its relations with the American world.

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Abstract

This article presents the perspectives of the physician and politician Jaime Vera y López (1859-1918), co-founder of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party, on the medical profession, medical practice, and healthcare systems. It compares the Report (*Informe*) that he presented to the *Comisión de Reformas Sociales* (1884) with his later writings published in the socialist press («*Farmacia y cooperación obrera*», 1914 and «*La locura en los niños. Camino del remedio*», 1916). We observe the discrepancies between the political-programme documents and the articles centring on professional questions and highlight how his theoretical focus is modified when applied to matters of medical practice.

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Abstract

This paper aims to analyse the role played by Medicine, against a background of social reform in the first third of the 20th Century, in helping to shape the nature of disabilities in Spain. We look at the legislation passed to regulate occupational accidents and the institutions set up to look after accident victims with physical or functional disabilities from the perspective developed in the new academic field of disability studies and using scientific and professional journals as well as documentation from Spain's legislative chambers as our main sources. We attempt to examine the extent to which these developments helped to transform the existing social perception of people with disabilities.

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5.—Conclusión.

Abstract

This article discusses the thought of one of the pioneers of eugenics in Spain, Dr. Enrique Diego Madrazo. In particular, it analyses his 1930 essay *Un siglo de civilización bajo la influencia eugenésica* [*A Century of Civilization under the Influence of Eugenics*], as the most explicit work on the eugenic utopia he advocated. This work, because of its breadth, was also one of the most extensive and detailed accounts of the steps to be taken towards the eugenic society that was produced. The present analysis of his work assesses the degree to which his thought, which has been described as «utopian socialist», in fact corresponded to that epithet, given the politically authoritarian nature and the gender bias of some aspects of his one-hundred year plan for the creation of a eugenic society. The article also places Madrazo's thought in the context of his time and other national currents of eugenic thought.

«Two professions for a single task». The introduction of chemical engineering in Spain during the first Francoism.

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Abstract

Through the first half of the 20th century, chemical engineering was established as an academic option in the training of specialists for the North-American and European chemical industry, whereas it was not a special field of study in Spain until the 1990s. The reason for this delay was a battle of interests between chemist and industrial engineers to control this career during the first Francoism. This article will try to show the development and professionalization of specialists for the Spanish chemical industry.

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Abstract

The emergence of Evidence-Based Medicine (EBM) as the gold-standard practice in biomedicine and public health practices represents a significant epistemological turn in modern medicine. The development of Evidence-Based Public Health (EBPH) followed the emergence of Evidence-Based Medicine, as an attempt to ground health policies and interventions on «sound facts». The present paper analyzes the historical and sociological roots of this turn. We evaluate the ethical and social consequences of this transformation, both within the medical profession (the polarization between a medical elite which strengthened its professional status, and a rank and file which experienced a process of «de-professionalization») and in its relationship to the welfare state (the link between the medical elite, EBM, EBPH and the commodification of health care and public health).

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